

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MOLDING A BASKETBALL BACKBOARD~~  
A PLASTICATOR SCREW

Please replace Paragraph 0001 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0001]** This application is a ~~continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/220,906 filed March 31, 1994.~~ continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/769,201 filed January 24, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,620,353, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/399,524, filed September 20, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,190,586, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/139,923 filed August 26, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,954,601, which is a division of Serial No. 08/710,411 filed September 17, 1996, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,800,757, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/220,906 filed March 31, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,591,384.

Please replace Paragraph 0010 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0010]** In the field of molded parts, many products are currently made from a variety of materials using moldable plastic. In the sporting goods field for example, ~~example,~~ bicycles, basketball backboards, toy vehicles and the like are commonly produced using multiple plastic materials. Compression molding has been a common method for producing basketball backboards and related parts of basketball goal assemblies, such as the support pull for the basketball backboard for many years. Heretofore, compression molding of basketball backboards and related parts has typically been limited to thermoset materials, which is characterized by placement of a cold charge in a compression mold. Thermoset process materials have certain drawbacks, including the fact that these materials are generally not recyclable other than as filler materials. In general, there are two basic types of compression molding processes which may be used for molding thermoplastics. The following description of

these two processes outline some of the difficulties that have prevented use of compression molding thermoplastics in the basketball goal assembly field.

Please replace Paragraph 0012 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0012]** A second form of thermoplastic compression is bulk molding compounds by producing a billet of molten material that is placed into a compression molding press which molds the molten material into a part. Effectively, placing and distributing long reinforcing fibers in the billet has heretofore required complex machinery as discussed in detail in parent application Serial No. 08/220,906[.], now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,591,384.

Please replace Paragraph 0118 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0118]** Note that it may be desirable to integrally mold a surface texture or finish to the part during the molding process. For example, a plastic sheet or film, such as the Teslin™ sheet, manufactured by PPG Industries of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, may be integrally molded into the surface of the part. For example, if the plastic sheet was selected, it would be cut to the dimensions of the mold and placed in the mold prior to molding. The side of the sheet which contacts the mold may be coated with an acrylic finish to prevent the sheet from adhering to the mold during the molding process. After the sheet is placed in the mold, the billet 16 can be placed on the sheet and the part molded as described. If desired, a sheet could be placed on both mold members 20a and 20b before billet 16 is placed on mold member 20a. The billet 16 would then be placed on the sheet and molded as described above. This facilitates producing a part having a desired surface texture or finish on both sides. It is to be noted that, after the molding process, the polymer sheet is integral with the part.

Please replace Paragraph 0128 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0128]** Referring now to Figures 17-20, another embodiment is shown illustrating the use of the system and method for molding an item of sporting goods equipment, such as a basketball board 200 (Fig. 18). In this embodiment, the press 18 comprises the upper molding member 20a' and lower molding member 20b' which cooperates to

protect the backboard 200 illustrated in Figs. 18 and 20. Although not shown, the upper molding member 20a' comprises a rib forming section (not shown) for forming a plurality of ribs 202 (Figs. 19 and 20) which facilitates strengthening the basketball backboard 200 as conventionally known. The lower mold member ~~[[20a']]~~ 20b' comprises a plurality of recess-forming areas 201 for forming angled recesses 207 (Fig. 18) in backboard 200.